Radio Days

WTCC, WCCS and now WFCS at 107.7-- and anywhere at wfcsradio.com

Vol. 7, Fall 2019

■ *Radio Club Homecoming, 2019*

Homecoming gets an early start at WFCS

Saturday morning, Oct. 18, was the quintessential day for a homecoming -- bright sun and cloudless skies. A light sweatshirt was all you needed for the slight fall chill in the air. But what mattered was happening over the air. Homecoming's first event played out early as WFCS alumni began dropping by the station even before 9 a.m.

Radio Club alumni at homecoming 2019. Standing from left: Eve Sarra, '74; Steve Strinie, '83; Paul Grange '74; Perry Carpinella, '72; Mike Hodis, '75; Dianne Zareski, '74; Elaine Miner, '84; Bill Pearse, '75; Tom Larson, '74; Gil Gigliotti, professor, Department of English, WFCS adviser. Below from left, Art Passaro, '72; John Sarra, '73; Paul Koscak, '73; Tony Augeri, '73

Great find! Elaine Miner, '84, proves you never know what vinyl treasures lurk in the depths of the WFCS record library, such as this vintage Stray Cats album.

As the studio and connecting rooms filled with more and more alumni, the din of all the dialogue gave the alumni shows a festive background. Meeting and greeting over coffee, juice, fresh fruit and pastries made for a relaxing way to catch up on things, enjoy the camaraderie and to let listeners know the party -- the 33rd WFCS homecoming gathering no less -- sounds as good on the radio as it really does at the station.

It should be noted that without the support of Vicki Minervino '19, WFCS's general manager, and Steve Strinie '84, who's been gracing the WFCS airwaves with his show for 27 years, homecoming at the station wouldn't be possible.

Vicki generously arranged a block of airtime that morning for alumni shows and an inviting "open house" for everyone else who just wanted to stop by. She personally made certain everyone felt welcome and we look forward to return that welcome when she joins us as an alumni at Homecoming 2020. Thanks Vicki.

Mike Hodis, '75, takes to the airwaves as part of the morning line up of alumni shows.

And while most alumni are sleeping in (or sleeping off!) Friday night's reunion festivities, Steve Strinie, '84, arrives early at the station. He opens the studio, fires up the equipment and plugs homecoming before anyone's there, smoothing the way for the soon-to-be-arriving alumni.

First to arrive and last to leave, Steve is also the go-to guy throughout the morning for help in pushing the right buttons or turning the right knobs for those who have been away from the board for years. While the craft of broadcasting remains the same, the equipment has not. Thanks Steve.

Special appreciation goes to Director of Alumni Affairs Cathie Jost and her staff. Each year, Cathie, '73, manages the design, printing and delivery of those homecoming invitation post cards for radio club alumni and keeps the alumni list current. She ensures the refreshments at the station on those Saturday mornings are ordered and delivered. Thanks Cathie.

John Sarra, '73, (left) and Steve Strinie, '83, show the station's graphics are far more inspiring than the blank walls in years past like this 107.7 The Edge logo

Finally, a note of thanks to everyone who visited to make for a successful WFCS alumni homecoming. Those unique years at the station (or at Central, for that matter) happen only once but produced some great memories, friendships and lasting anecdotes worth recalling -- and dropping by for each year to renew.

Of course, let's not forget that small thrill of being in radio: playing the music, creating your show, writing copy, doing audio production, preparing newscasts, operating the equipment and, the most important part, having fun. ***Paul Koscak, editor***